

REMARKS

Claim 20 has been cancelled. Claim 16 has been amended to include claim 20, and to delete the phrase "having a composition different from that of the fiber". No new matter has been added. Claims 16-19, 21 and 28-38 are present in the application. Applicants would like to thank Examiner Gray for indicating that claims 20, 21 and 28-35 are free of the prior art.

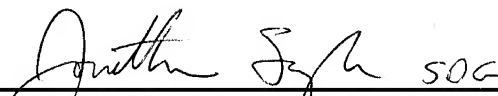
The rejections of claims 16-19 and 36-38 as anticipated by or, in the alternative, obvious over, Nam et al. ("Preparation and characterization of TiO₂ fiber and its photocatalytic properties", Paper # 291) and Kim et al. ("Preparation of TiO₂ Fiber and its Photocatalytic Properties", Materials Science Forum, vol. 439, pp. 271-276 (2003)) have been obviated by appropriate amendment. Claim 20 has been incorporated into independent claim 16, from which claims 17-19 and 36-38 depend. Neither Nam et al. nor Kim et al. disclose or suggest a ceramic coated fiber that includes a fiber and a ceramic coated on the fiber, where the ceramic has a BET surface area of at least 60 m²/g, where the ceramic accounts for 10-90% by weight of the ceramic coated fiber, and where the ceramic includes crystalline ceramic. Accordingly, claims 16-19 and 36-38 are neither anticipated by, nor obvious over, the applied references. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

All of the grounds raised in the present Office Action for rejecting the application are believed to be overcome or rendered moot based on the remarks above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently presented claims are in form for allowance, and such action is requested. Should the Examiner feel a discussion would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at (312) 876-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

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